

# The Idaho State Department of Agriculture

The Idaho Legislature created the Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) in 1919 to assist and regulate the state's fast-growing agricultural industry. The primary purposes for establishment were to protect Idaho's crops and livestock from the introduction and spread of pests and transmittable diseases, to help provide the industry with a system for the orderly marketing of agricultural commodities, and to protect consumers from contaminated products or fraudulent marketing practices. These purposes still drive the department today.

The department derives its statutory authority from multiple sections of the Idaho Code. Section 22-101 creates the Department of Agriculture and the position of director. Section 22-102 provides that the director "shall organize the department into such divisions and other administrative sub-units as may be necessary in order to efficiently administer the department," and section 22-103 lists specific directorial duties. Title 22 also contains the authority for the Plant Industries Division, the Agricultural Resources Division, and the department's Marketing Bureau. The primary authority for the Animal Industries Division lies within Title 25 and Title 37, while the Agricultural Inspections Division, which includes the Bureaus of Weights and Measures and Bonded Warehouse, derives authority from Titles 69 and 71.

In addition to the seven divisions which primarily make up the ISDA, the Idaho Soil Conservation Commission and most recently the Idaho Rural Partnership were realigned to reside within the Department of Agriculture. While maintaining a level of independence, each entity and the department work cooperatively to coordinate complimentary programs and responsibilities, especially in the areas of agriculture, related natural resources and improving life in rural Idaho. Five commodity commissions - the Idaho Alfalfa and Clover Seed Commission, Idaho Honey Advertising Commission, Idaho Hop Commission, Idaho Mint Commission and Idaho Sheep Commission - are also technically housed within the ISDA, although each entity maintains its autonomy. The department works closely with all other agriculture commodity commissions. The Idaho Food Quality Assurance Laboratory (IFQAL) was assigned by the Idaho Legislature to the Department of Agriculture on July 1, 2005. The department works cooperatively with the Idaho Food Quality Assurance Institute under its authority in Title 67, Chapter 83 to administrator the day-to-day operations of the laboratory.

The Idaho State Department of Agriculture has a current budget of approximately \$46 million. For FY2008, the state general fund accounts for 43.8 percent of the budget. The remainder of the department's funding comes from various types of fees assessed directly to the segment of industry being regulated or receiving services. Federal sources also assist the department with the funding of certain programs. The department is currently staffed with approximately 333 full-time employees. The Bureau of Shipping Point Inspection and other units of the department also hire hundreds of seasonal employees each year with as many as 321 being on-board at any one time in 2006.

The department continues to facilitate efforts to help eradicate Eurasian Watermilfoil. Again this year the Legislature approved \$4 million to help fund eradication of this aquatic nuisance. This spring, Director Gould gave final approval for 14 treatment plans, program funds were distributed and treatment applications will progress through the summer. Post-treatment results will be available on the ISDA website by January 2008. Eurasian Watermilfoil is a noxious weed that is infesting Idaho's waterways, endangering swimmers and destroying fish populations. A small fragment of watermilfoil the size of a postage stamp can break off and form a new infestation.



In May 2007 ISDA and USDA initiated a program to treat fields in Eastern Idaho which tested positive in 2006 for Potato Cyst Nematode (PCN). PCN is a major pest to potato crops. The program includes pre-treatment sampling, fumigation, and post-treatment sampling. After the initial fumigation this spring, oil radish, which is toxic to the PCN, was planted in the infected fields and will help prevent soil erosion. The department's quick response to this pest has been widely praised.

The agriculture industry in Idaho is changing and many new opportunities have emerged. The department stands ready to meet each new challenge and each new opportunity.

*The Idaho State Department of Agriculture is housed in the Wilson "Bill" Kellogg building dedicated on October 12, 1979.*

# **A Mission, A Vision, A Philosophy**

The Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) has adopted the following mission, vision and philosophy to help direct the agency's regulatory, promotional, and policy-making activities toward a common goal:

## **Mission**

Serving consumers and agriculture by safeguarding the public, plants, animals, and the environment through education and regulation.

## **Vision**

The Idaho State Department of Agriculture has an ever-important place in one of the state's largest industry sectors. We recognize that Idaho's economic well-being is forever tied to the health of its farming and ranching. We also recognize that new opportunities exist that will redefine the future of agriculture in Idaho. As agriculture changes, ensuring efficient and superior service delivery will continue to be the department's foremost priority. The pledge has been made to optimize the value of principles our farmers and ranchers have framed over the past century.

The director believes that fostering a cooperative atmosphere within the agency and with other state agencies creates the opportunity for increased internal efficiency, as well as, prompt and complete customer-driven service delivery. She will continue to encourage personal and professional development through education and training, and motivate employees by providing meaningful work-related challenges. In addition, her availability to the public and agency employees reinforces her commitment to the success of the industry.

## **ISDA Goals and Objectives**

The Idaho State Department of Agriculture strives to be the model for government agencies, providing a careful balance of education, regulation and promotion of the agriculture industry in the state. ISDA will:

- Offer superior protection to the public and the agriculture industry.
- Improve the quality and uniformity of current services provided to industry.
- Enhance the department's customer service structure.
- Address public concerns regarding animal care, and water and air quality.
- Continue to educate the agriculture industry about environmental stewardship and statutory obligations.
- Work with the agriculture industry to identify Best Management.
- Provide the public with timely and accurate information on regulatory and monitoring activities.
- Support full implementation of a record management program.
- Work closely with the public, agriculture industry and other government agencies to identify emerging issues.
- Promote Idaho agriculture products through trade shows, trade missions, in-store promotions, cooking shows, publications and other events.
- Increase the identity, awareness and consumption of products grown and processed in Idaho through the Idaho Preferred® label.
- Improve domestic and international transportation systems for agricultural products.
- Increase exports through the management of Idaho trade offices in Mexico, Taiwan, Korea, China, and Japan while working to identify and remove trade barriers that prohibit or limit export of Idaho products.
- Continue to ensure the accuracy and reliability of scales and devices that are used by consumers and producers.
- Encourage employee innovation, creativity and forward-thinking.
- Continue to examine the department's organizational and operational framework to find efficiencies.

# Idaho State Department of Agriculture Administration



## **Celia R. Gould Director/Secretary**

Director Gould was appointed by Governor C. L. "Butch" Otter to the Idaho State Department of Agriculture in January 2007. Celia is a third generation farmer/rancher and continues to actively participate in the family operation raising black-angus cattle, corn, wheat and hay. Celia's objectives for ISDA include: enhancement of the customer service structure of the agency through quality and uniformity, partnering with Idaho producers to showcase and ensure quality products, retain and train employees to ensure the highest quality of professional expertise; and administer the business of the department efficiently and effectively.



## **Brian Oakey, Deputy Director**

In March of 2007 Brian became the Deputy Director at ISDA. Brian's duties as deputy director include advising the Director, Chief of Staff and administrators on policy related matters and representing the department in interagency and constituent negotiations as assigned by the Director. He previously worked with the Attorney General's office representing the ISDA in litigation, contested case proceedings and advising administration and staff on legal matters including public records, legislation and rule making, contracts and leases, and various other legal matters. He received a Master of Laws degree in Agricultural Law from the University of Arkansas in May 2003 and a Juris doctorate degree from Drake University in 2002. While attending law school, Brian served as the Drake Agricultural Law Society

President and the Editor-in-Chief of the Drake Journal of Agricultural Law.



## **Pamm Juker, Chief of Staff/Communications Director**

Pamm was appointed by Director Gould in April 2007 to assist in fostering a reliable communication system between diverse divisions within the department, as well as, with other state agencies, customers, the public and media. Pamm manages internal communications to encourage innovation and information sharing within the department as well as playing an integral part in the policy component for the agency. In addition, she coordinates public information activities in support of the Director and department. Pamm manages the Records Management program and plans, organizes and directs other department-wide projects. She also assists the Director with administrative, personnel, and policy decision-making. She has served the state for the past 13 years and currently represents the

Department on several advisory committees and the state PIER Team which coordinates state services and agencies in the event of a natural disaster or terror attempt.



### **Kelly Nielsen, Administrative Support Programs**

Kelly oversees the administrative programs of the department including: financial management, human resources, information technology, and legal services. This division is responsible for providing administrative services for the other internal divisions of the Department and external customers including the Soil Conservation Commission, Quality Assurance Institute, Idaho Aquaculture and the Board of Veterinary Services. The services provided include accounting, payroll, training, employee development, help desk, programming, server administration, mail services, building and complex maintenance, and capital projects. This division seeks to provide quality service to both external and internal customers at a minimal overhead cost.



### **Laura Johnson, International Trade & Domestic Market Development**

The goal of the Market Development Division is to increase domestic and international sales opportunities for Idaho food and agricultural products to foster industry growth and profitability. The Division increases the consumption of locally grown products in retail, schools and food service through the Idaho Preferred® program. A comprehensive approach to international market development includes promotion, trade policy, transportation and education. The third area of focus is on Ag diversification including value-added processing and new uses for agricultural products such as energy.



**Fred Rios, Division of Agricultural Resources** The Division of Agricultural Resources is designated to protect human health, the environment, and animal and wildlife species of the state from potential adverse effects of agricultural activities. The division registers pesticides for sale and use in Idaho and trains and licenses pesticide applicators and chemigators. In coordination with agriculture professionals, agencies, and the public, the department has improved protection of human health, the environment, and fish and wildlife species of the state from potential adverse effects of pesticides. The division also coordinates a statewide pesticide disposal program safely collecting and disposing of 799,508 pounds of unusable pesticides in Idaho since 1993. This division also incorporates the Engineering Section to provide professional engineering services and consultation to Idaho agricultural communities.



### **Lee Stacey, Division of Agricultural Inspections**

The Division of Agricultural Inspections inspects and certifies the grades on more than 10 billion pounds of Idaho commodities. Idaho's commitment to quality is recognized throughout the United States and in the international arena. We are proud of the part we play in this endeavor. In order for our producers to sell their commodities to retailers, they have to have Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) in place as well as Good Agricultural Practices (GAP). This division is working with the private sector to offer auditing programs to accomplish these important goals. This division also oversees the Bureau of Weights and Measures program which enforces accuracy, design, and operating practices for all commercial weights and measured devices within the state to ensure uniformity and equity for the consumer and the business community. The Bonded Warehouse program also resides within the Division of Agricultural Inspections. It continues to improve with the implementation of new, more effective laws to better protect the producer, including those growers who grow seed under bailment contracts.



### **Dr. Bill Barton, Division of Animal Industries**

The Division of Animal Industries consists of the Bureaus of Dairy/CAFOs; Animal Health and Livestock; Disease Surveillance and Diagnostics; and the Rangeland Management Program. Major functions include: disease control and eradication; animal identification; epidemiology; animal care and inspection; testing of animals; inspection of dairies and milk products; approval and inspection of dairy and beef waste systems; and the inspection and licensing of dairy processing facilities and various other animal agriculture facilities. Staff members also provide leadership in managing Idaho's natural resources and assistance in resolving rangeland management issues enhancing the viability of rural communities. This division's animal lab provides regulatory testing of animals for domestic and foreign markets; detection and control of animal diseases; and the testing of milk and milk products for quality, purity and adherence to standards of identity composition.



### **Tom Dayley, Division of Plant Industries**

The Plant Industries Division is responsible for: consumer protection, export certification, pest exclusion, control of grasshoppers and Mormon crickets, certification of organic food products, and inspections of potato brands and potatoes at retail outlets. Division functions include: field inspections of crops and laboratory analyses for phytosanitary certification; survey and detection of exotic pests and diseases; registration of feeds, fertilizers, soil and plant amendments, nurseries, bee colonies and seed dealers; enforcement of quarantine rules; coordination of regional and statewide weed control activities; and advising and assisting county weed control authorities of noxious weeds. Two labs are also associated with this division: the feed and fertilizer lab which analyzes samples for accurate label claims and the seed lab which performs germination, tetrazolium, purity, noxious weed, cold and other special tests for over 200 different crops from Idaho and nine other western states.

### **Jerry Nicolescu, Idaho Soil Conservation Commission**

The Soil Conservation Commission was created in 1939 to address soil and water conservation and related natural resource issues. Commission staff fulfills this mission by providing support and services to Idaho's 51 soil conservation districts for the wise use and enhancement of soil, water and related resources. Staff members also provide technical, fiscal, and administrative assistance to districts and local landowners and users. Over 20,000 Idaho farmers, ranchers and landowners are served through soil conservation districts.



### **Shelby Kerns, Idaho Rural Partnership**

Shelby Kerns was appointed Executive Director of the Idaho Rural Partnership (IRP) in January 2008. IRP's mission is to join diverse public and private resources in innovative collaborations to strengthen communities and improve life in rural Idaho. The Partnership facilitates collaboration to promote policies and programs that enhance opportunity; reduce or eliminate conflicting or duplicative administrative or regulatory requirements; and provide access to needed resources for rural communities. IRP is governed by a board of directors comprised of the Governor's Office, legislators, federal and state agency directors, tribes, local government, the Idaho National Laboratory, University of Idaho Extension, and the private sector.



## *ISDA ADVISORY COMMITTEES*

Animal Health Advisory Committee  
Commodity Indemnity Fund  
Crop Residue Disposal Advisory Committee  
Fertilizer, Soil and Plant Amendment Advisory Committee  
Fish and Game Advisory Committee  
Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Inspection Advisory Committee  
Idaho Potato Industry Advisory Committee  
Idaho Preferred Advisory Board

Idaho Seed Arbitration Committee  
Idaho Seed Industry Advisory Committee  
Idaho State Seed Laboratory Advisory Board  
Noxious Weeds Advisory Committee  
Organic Food Advisory Council  
Pesticide Licensing Advisory Committee  
Rangeland Management Advisory Committee  
Seed Indemnity Fund  
State Nursery and Florist Advisory Committee

## ISDA 2008 Budget Highlights

<i>Operating Budget</i>	<b>FY2006 Actual</b>	<b>FY2007 Actual</b>	<b>FY2008 Actual</b>	<b>FY2008 Approp</b>	<b>FY2009 Approp</b>
<i>By Program:</i>					
Administration	1,793,700	1,773,400	1,976,300	2,114,100	2,192,800
Animal Industries	5,097,000	4,903,800	4,479,500	6,144,700	6,242,200
Agricultural Resources	3,426,700	3,673,300	3,527,700	3,876,800	3,803,000
Plant Industries	5,742,900	11,460,700	11,547,400	17,617,300	13,491,300
Agricultural Inspections	8,191,000	7,611,000	8,484,100	9,964,300	10,907,500
Marketing and Development	1,197,000	1,191,500	1,149,600	1,304,300	1,780,600
Animal Damage Control	287,700	429,900	433,600	588,100	588,100
Sheep Commission	127,000	100,800	102,700	164,500	171,300
Soil Conservation Commission	4,686,500	4,725,600	4,793,600	5,020,200	5,140,600
<b>Total</b>	<b>30,549,500</b>	<b>35,870,000</b>	<b>36,494,500</b>	<b>46,794,300</b>	<b>44,317,400</b>
<i>By Fund Category:</i>					
General	10,059,000	10,727,700	16,407,800	20,533,300	17,046,500
Dedicated/Other	15,686,900	19,932,700	15,793,100	19,514,100	20,482,500
Federal	4,803,600	5,209,600	4,293,600	6,746,900	6,788,400
<b>Total</b>	<b>30,549,500</b>	<b>35,870,000</b>	<b>36,494,500</b>	<b>46,794,300</b>	<b>44,317,400</b>
<b>% Change from Previous Year</b>	<b>-1.32%</b>	<b>17.42%</b>	<b>1.74%</b>	<b>13.68%</b>	<b>-5.29%</b>
<i>By Object of Expenditure:</i>					
Personnel Costs	17,973,700	18,109,100	18,761,700	22,861,800	24,315,900
Operating Expenditures	6,779,600	7,638,100	7,796,300	9,218,800	9,739,300
Capital Outlay	1,202,800	1,124,500	874,800	1,049,400	626,600
Trustee/Benefit Payments	4,593,400	8,998,300	9,061,700	13,664,300	9,635,600
Lump Sum		0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>30,549,500</b>	<b>35,870,000</b>	<b>36,494,500</b>	<b>46,794,300</b>	<b>44,317,400</b>
<b>Full-Time Positions (FTP)</b>	<b>232.25</b>	<b>237.25</b>	<b>237.25</b>	<b>237.25</b>	<b>234.25</b>

# 2008 Agricultural Legislation



Full bill details on legislation impacting ISDA can be found on the internet at:  
<http://www3.state.id.us/legislat/legtrack.html>

**H 392: Nursery Licenses** - The legislation amended the law to increase the nursery license fee from \$75.00 to \$100.00. The increase is to adjust for the rising cost of personnel and operating costs associated with industry demands for more service. There had not been a fee adjustment since 1999. (Idaho Code, Title 22, Chapter 23)

**H 393: Fertilizer Registration Records** - The bill amended the fertilizer law to provide for a raise in the semi-annual inspection fees from \$0.15 to \$0.35 per ton and raised the minimum filing fee from \$5.00 to \$15.00, as well as changed the registration process itself. A penalty for the distribution of unregistered fertilizer products was also included. The bill created a registration and records retention system more consistent with those found in the feed, soil, and plant amendment laws. (Idaho Code, Title 22, Chapter 6)

**H 394: Soil, Plant and Amendment Law** - Raised the minimum semi-annual tonage fee from \$5.00 to \$15.00. The increase in fee will cover the Department's expense in processing the mandatory reports. (Idaho Code, Title 22, Chapter 22).

**H 414: Department of Agriculture Employees** - This legislation provided for Department of Agriculture employees hired for temporary tasks to be designated as "non-classified" employees. This provision was specific only to pest survey detection employees and their supervisors hired specifically to carry out activities under the Idaho Plant Pest Act, similar to the Department inspectors under the fresh fruit and vegetable inspection service. (Idaho Code, Title 67, Chapter 53)

**H 426: Idaho Ag in the Classroom** - This legislation moves the "Idaho Ag in the Classroom" program from the Department of Agriculture designating the program as its own entity with separate monetary support. (Idaho Code, Title 57, Chapter 8)

**H 441: Idaho Food Quality Assurance Institute** - Changed the terminology for representatives serving on the Idaho Food Quality Assurance Institute's board from representative of a commodity commission to industry representative since many organizations being represented do not have a commission. (Idaho Code, Title 67, Chapter 83)

**H 514aa: Soil Conservation Districts** - Revised the audit requirements by government entities for soil conservation districts and provided for more uniform accountability. (Idaho Code, Title 22, Chapter 27)

**H 557: Crop Residue Burning** - The legislation transferred the authority of the field burning program from the Department of Agriculture to the Department of Environmental Quality. (Repeal Title 22, Chapter 48; Amend Title 39, Chapter 1)

**H 643: Invasive Species Act of 2008** - Created the Invasive Species Act of 2008. The law established certain prohibitive actions, disclosed the duties and authority of the Department of Agriculture and its director. It also provided for the implementation of the designated provisions. (Idaho Code, Title 22, Chapter 19)

**S 1387: Rural Economic Development and Integrated Freight Transportation** - The bill provided for the director of the department of agriculture to designate one of the co-chairmen of the Interagency Working Group. (Idaho Code, Title 49, Chapter 29)

**S 1388: REDiFIT Grants** - The bill increased the maximum grant limit within the REDiFIT (Rural Economic Development and Integrated Freight Transportation) revolving loan program from \$25,000 to \$100,000. (Idaho Code, Title 49, Chapter 29)

**SCR 130** - Requested that the Department of Agriculture and Department of Commerce jointly identify one week per year as "Farm City Week" to highlight the inter-dependence between Idaho's urban and rural economies.



## Market Development

The mission of ISDA's Market Development program is to "promote Idaho's food and agriculture industry by expanding opportunities in domestic and foreign markets fostering industry growth and profitability." As such, the department promotes Idaho food and agriculture products in Idaho and around the world.

Nearly 20% of Idaho's agriculture is exported to foreign markets. The Idaho agriculture industry experienced significant export growth in FY2007 reaching a new record of \$1.2 billion, up over 25% from FY2006. Canada remained Idaho's top agricultural export market and Mexico moved into the number two export position followed by Japan. With a declining dollar, strong economic growth, particularly in East Asia, and high commodity prices, another record is forecast for FY2008. In addition, the international programs implemented by the Division over the last few years have been building upon previous successes and achieving greater and greater results.

During the past year, Governor C.L. "Butch" Otter led two international trade missions. The first was a trade mission October 27 – November 6 to four cities in China: Beijing, Harbin, Shanghai and Shenzhen. Larsen Farms Hay Terminal of Dubois signed a contract for 500 tons a month of compressed alfalfa hay amounting to more than \$1.5 million in annual sales. Orders for six containers of processed meat products valued at \$300,000 were also received during the mission.



*Governor participated in signing ceremony for alfalfa hay sales to China*



*Governor and First Lady prepared an Idaho Cattleman's Pie for Mexican cooking show*

The trade mission to Mexico April 19-26, 2008 included a delegation of 16 Idaho companies and included stops in Mexico City, Monterrey and Culiacan. The Governor and First Lady participated in a television cooking show in Monterrey with celebrity chef Lulu Pedraza featuring an Idaho Cattleman's Pie. The entrée included Idaho dehydrated mashed potatoes, beef and onions along with Idaho wine. The show aired May 4<sup>th</sup> on nationwide Mexican cable television. The mission also included a bean seed seminar sponsored by the Idaho Bean Commission with more than 50 Mexican bean farmers and industry representatives learning about the benefits of using Idaho certified bean seed. The mission resulted in increased sales of processed foods of over \$1 million.

visited Macau and Hong Kong to participate in a chef's training and product showcase. Chef Kirt Martin of Hagerman conducted training and product presentations for local chefs, hotel food and beverage managers, importers and distributors in the rapidly growing market. The promotion, now in its second year, has directly impacted sales. A total of \$320,000 was booked at the event and sales are expected to grow to \$1.7 million annually. Idaho shippers are now sending a container of fresh potatoes to Hong

Kong each month as well as multiple containers of natural pork to the region.



*Chef demonstrations in Taiwan showcased Idaho foods*



*Chinese retail buyers visited Idaho to source Idaho products*

The largest ever Western U.S. Menu Promotion was held in Taiwan in October. Rod Jessick, Executive Chef of the Coeur d'Alene Resort, conducted four chef trainings, judged a chef competition and participated in multiple media events. The promotion included 19 restaurants in two cities in Taiwan featuring western U.S. food on their menus for a four week period. Idaho products included Snake River Farms Kobe beef and Kurabuta pork, Salmon Creek Farms natural pork, Fresca tortillas and Simplot potato products.

Transportation is a critical issue in the distribution of agricultural products and an important component of market development. Therefore, the Division has been increasingly involved in the area of transportation. The Idaho Legislature transferred

the Rural Economic Development and Integrated Freight Transportation Program Revolving Loan Fund (REDIFiT) to ISDA effective July 1, 2007. The Division formed an Interagency Working Group, created the loan program guidelines and awarded the first loans in December. To date, a total of 6 loans totaling \$4.8 million have been awarded for transportation projects. In addition, the Division co-sponsored an annual AgTC Transportation Workshop in Boise in February.



Idaho Preferred®, the Department's primary domestic program, continues to expand, providing valuable marketing assistance to 165 Idaho producer participants. Farmers, ranchers, processors, specialty food companies and farmers' markets are benefiting from growing consumer awareness of the Idaho Preferred® program by

incorporating the logo into labels, signage, ads and websites. In September, Governor C.L. "Butch" Otter proclaimed the month to be "Idaho Preferred® Month." The designation was celebrated with retail promotions including the Idaho Preferred® logo in print ads, establishing permanent Idaho Preferred® sections, and promoting seasonal products with point of sale materials and special events.



*Governor Otter proclaimed September as Idaho Preferred Month at an Albertsons store.*

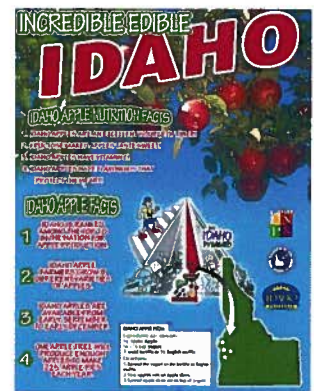
for reaching schools with Idaho Preferred® products and educational materials. Schools across the state serve fresh Idaho fruits and vegetables for lunch during August and September as part of their Healthy Harvest Celebrations. New "Incredible Edible Idaho" posters were sent monthly to nearly 900 teachers and school cafeterias to expand learning opportunities beyond just the harvest season. Each poster featured a different Idaho food with information on production and nutrition as well as reproducible activity sheets for use in the classroom. And, to provide schools with a healthy fund-raising opportunity, Idaho Preferred® continued to offer schools and youth organizations the opportunity to sell Idaho apples, potatoes, barley soup and other healthy food items. Over 5000 items were sold in 2007 netting schools and Idaho Preferred® companies nearly \$50,000.



*New nursery promotion materials help identify Idaho trees, shrubs and flowers*

Foodservice promotions were held in Treasure Valley and north Idaho to recognize restaurants that include and identify Idaho Preferred® products on their menus. And, the third annual "Taste of Idaho" sponsored by Idaho Preferred®, Albertsons, Sysco, and Peak Broadcasting allowed consumers to meet local growers, taste and buy Idaho foods and wines and watch professional chefs create medal-winning Idaho entrées. Chefs were also the target of three "Farmer-Chef Collaboratives" held in Coeur d'Alene, Sandpoint and Meridian. Forty-two chefs from across the state met face-to-face with over 60 farmers and producers to source local products for their restaurants.

Partnerships with the Department of Education and Idaho Agriculture in the Classroom continued to be effective tools



In November 2007, ISDA kicked off its nursery program with a poinsettia promotion. Over 5000 plants with "Grown with Pride in Idaho" stickers were sold in seven stores. New materials including plant stakes, tree tags, banners and headers were produced and offered to all participating nurseries. Thirteen nurseries have participated in retail promotions or are using Idaho Preferred® signage on containers or racks.

In conjunction with the Department of Commerce, the Division and several local restaurants joined forces to take advantage of the growing trend in Culinary Tourism. Fifteen food and tourism writers from New York to California traveled across Idaho to taste and experience the quality and diversity of Idaho food and wine. In just 60 days following the tour, three articles had already appeared in national or regional media.

During the past year, the Division also participated in targeted trade shows with Idaho or regional pavilions at ANTAD Supermarket show in Guadalajara, Exphotel in Mexico, the Sysco Foodservice Show and the FSA Food Service Show in Boise. Further, the division hosted numerous trade teams, sponsored educational workshops and published several brochures and directories including a "Guide to Idaho Farmers' Markets."



*Director Gould presented the first REDIFiT Transportation loans in December*



## Division of Animal Industries

The Division of Animal Industries consists of the Dairy/CAFO Bureau, Animal Health and Livestock Bureau and the Rangeland Management Program. The division has 49 full-time employees and an annual budget of approximately \$6.3 million. Major functions are described in the following bureau and program summaries.



### Dairy/CAFO Bureau

The **Dairy/CAFO Bureau** provides oversight of the dairy industry in Idaho. This oversight helps to ensure safe, wholesome milk and milk products for consumers. The program encompasses sanitary inspections of dairy farms, bulk milk haulers, processors, manufacturing and processing equipment, warehouses, stores and other businesses where milk and dairy products are manufactured, stored, sold or offered for sale. The program also includes finished dairy product testing for compliance with state and national standards and an FDA approved laboratory certification program for industry and private laboratories. Additionally, this bureau conducts the inspection and grading of establishments where shell eggs are packaged, stored or offered for sale.

This bureau is also responsible for the protection of ground and surface water from dairy farm waste and waste generated on beef cattle animal feeding operations with more than 1000 head of

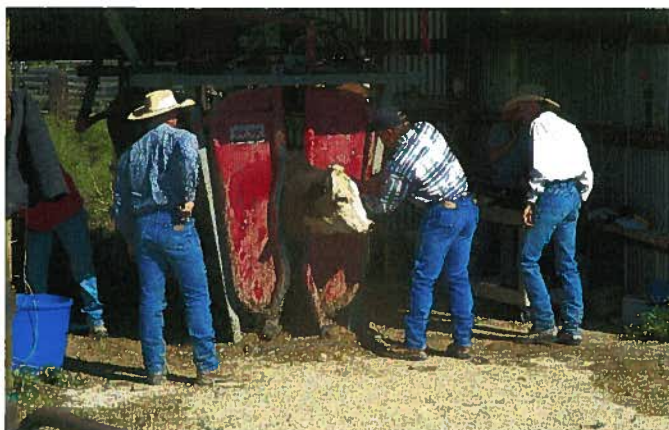
livestock or designated as a confined animal feeding operation (CAFO). Routine inspections are conducted of waste handling and containment facilities, land application sites and new or modified systems and facilities.

In addition to state enforcement requirements, this bureau works in conjunction with several federal agencies through cooperative agreements or memoranda of agreement to protect the environment and ensure safe food products. Laws and rules require all dairy farms and CAFOs to develop Nutrient Management Plans (NMPs). These plans aid in the appropriate applications of nutrients to cropland. A certification process has been implemented to assist in the development of NMPs and to certify soil samplers. Under the new rules which took effect September 1, 2007, soil samples from dairy and beef operations must be taken by "certified soil samplers" and tested in labs that have been approved by the North America Proficiency Testing Program. The department conducts NMP inspections and reviews or obtains soil tests to verify compliance.

The bureau is responsible for enforcement of the Agriculture Odor Management Act as it relates to Idaho dairy farms. Dairy farms that emit odors in excess of those odors normally associated with acceptable agricultural practices in Idaho will be required to develop an Odor Management Plan to reduce odors. The bureau works in conjunction with the University of Idaho, private industries, and the industry to find economically viable and effective means to minimize offensive odors on dairy farms. The bureau, through a Memorandum of Understanding with the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality also conducts dairy farm inspections on the larger dairy farms for the control of ammonia emissions.

### Animal Health and Livestock Bureau

The **Animal Health and Livestock Bureau** is responsible for regulatory animal disease control and prevention programs through the inspection and investigation of livestock and livestock facilities, and the regulation of movement of animals in intrastate, interstate and international commerce. This bureau also operates the State Animal Health Laboratory. Bureau staff participate in the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Cooperative Disease Control programs for cattle, horses, swine, sheep, domestic cervidae, ratites, llamas, poultry and fish. Idaho's Locate in 48 is one such program, intended to enable



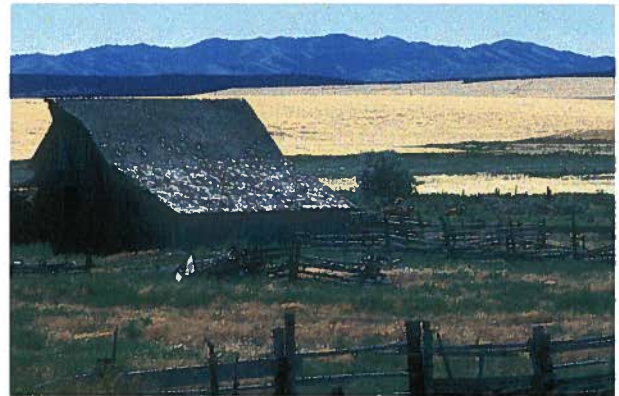
48-hour traceability of diseased or exposed animals and provide livestock owners with valuable information in the event of a disease outbreak. The bureau shares one veterinarian with the Idaho Department of Fish and Game who works on transmissible diseases of wildlife as well as domestic animals. The bureau and the Idaho Department of Fish and Game are working cooperatively to address brucellosis in free-ranging elk migrating out of the Greater Yellowstone Area.

Bureau staff field hundreds of calls and answer numerous questions and inquiries from the public, veterinary practitioners, and livestock producers on matters pertaining to disease control, preventive medicine, interstate shipment, herd management, animal care and waste management. They issue permits or licenses for animal agriculture functions and provide animal welfare education, investigate animal care complaints and work cooperatively with law enforcement agencies and the court system in the resolution of animal care cases and animal movement violations.

The bureau is also responsible for the prevention and control of emerging and emergency diseases affecting animals. Idaho veterinarians and veterinary technicians are trained in emergency disease recognition and response. The bureau coordinates with the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare to address diseases that are transmissible between animals and humans, and with the Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security on animal health emergency management. The State Animal Health Laboratory serves consumers and agriculture through prioritized testing of animal samples and dairy products for diseases or agents targeted as most important to animal health and human safety.

### **Rangeland Management Program**

The **Rangeland Management Program** provides leadership and technical support to Idaho agriculture producers. The primary duties of this program are to provide technical support and assistance to Idaho rangeland livestock producers. This support is delivered to both individual producers upon request and to local groups and associations through leadership and participation in collaborative teams such as local sage grouse working groups. Services include assistance for planning and implementing Best Management Practices (BMPs), including grazing systems, range improvements, and inventory and monitoring. Support is provided to livestock producers in reviewing and mediating agency actions, including those actions imposed under the Endangered Species Act, environmental analysis and agency planning and management decisions, which impact private and federal grazing allotments.



### **Recent Achievements**

- Increased animal care investigations.
- Improved manure/odor management.
- Revised numerous regulatory rules for clarity and brevity.
- Registered over 18,750 Idaho livestock premises in the National Animal Identification System.
- Animal Health Laboratory added a Training and Document Management Program to enhance its Quality Assurance System.
- Animal Health Laboratory implemented several molecular diagnostic assays to detect animal diseases.
- Department employees statewide trained in National Incident Management System.

### **Future Goals**

- Expand Johne's disease management program.
- Develop statewide animal care program in cooperation with counties.
- Continue to implement Idaho's Locate in 48 program through premises registration, animal identification, and outreach through U of I Extension Service.
- Participate in National Animal Health Lab Network surveillance for foreign animal diseases.
- Educate more local emergency managers, extension personnel, and producers on agro-terrorism potential and outcome to address the National Preparedness Goal for U. S. Department of Homeland Security.



## Division of Plant Industries

The Plant Industries Division is responsible for: consumer protection, export certification, pest exclusion, control of grasshoppers and Mormon crickets, noxious weeds, the certification of organic food products, and the inspection of potato brands and potatoes at the retail outlets. The division has 46 full-time and 25-40 seasonal temporary employees.

### Consumer Protection

In 2007, the division issued 2,230 nursery licenses; 697 seed dealer's licenses; 714 registration certificates for 11,496 feed products; 397 registration certificates for 4,292 fertilizer products; 172 registration certificates for 636 soil and plant amendment products; and 72 beekeeper registrations. Division inspectors randomly sample to test for compliance to truth-in-labeling for pet food, animal feed, fertilizers, and seeds offered for sale. The laboratories conducted 2,275 tests on feed samples; 1,093 tests on fertilizer samples; and 6,838 tests on seed samples. In most cases, deficiencies were corrected. If not, stop sale orders were issued: 83 on feed products; 3 on fertilizer products, and 52 on nursery products. Inspectors also conducted 1,005 nursery inspections for pests, diseases and noxious weeds. Through this program, the sale of animal feed products contaminated with aflatoxin, fumonisin or vomitoxin have been prevented. In addition, these measures have prevented the spread of noxious weeds by stopping the sale of contaminated seed lots.

### Pest Exclusion and Mitigation

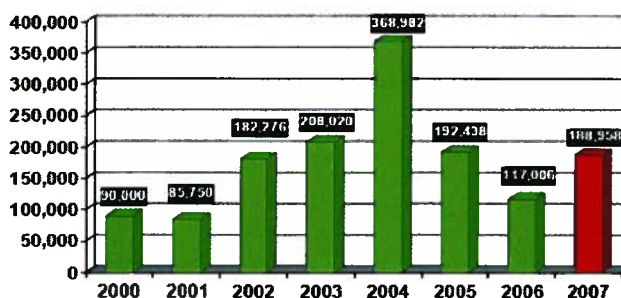
The most important goal of this program is the early detection of invasive or exotic pests. Each year this division conducts surveys on high priority pest threats to the Gem state. This year's surveys were conducted for: apple maggot, gypsy moth, light brown apple moth, silvery Y moth, Japanese beetle, karnal bunt, potato tuberworm and exotic nematodes including potato cyst nematode. This program also provides data to meet the phytosanitary requirements for a number of countries and states, and validates Idaho quarantines. In 2007, no adult Japanese beetles were caught in detection traps although ISDA is watching a serious infestation of the pest in nearby Orem, Utah. In 2007 only five potato tuberworm moths were captured in pheromone traps in southwest Idaho. The statewide gypsy moth survey, a cooperative effort with Idaho Department of Lands and the USFS, captured single males in two traps near Heise and Mountain Home, ID. Delimitation surveys at both sites will be initiated in 2008. The early detection of new or emerging pests allows for possible eradication, limiting spread and development of appropriate Integrated Pest Management technologies to mitigate a pest's negative environmental and economic impact to the state.



Male European Gypsy Moth  
*Lymantria dispar*

In April of 2006, the Potato Cyst Nematode (PCN) was discovered in eastern Idaho and was the first detection of PCN in the United States. A joint USDA/ISDA detection and eradication program was developed, with USDA as the lead agency. As of July 2008, eight fields comprising 1,100 acres have been found infested with the Pale Cyst Nematode. All of the fields are concentrated in a small area north of Shelley, Idaho. The Idaho PCN program has collected 134,831 five pound samples as of July 10, 2008. As of May 2008, three fumigations have been completed. Another fumigation is planned for Fall 2008. In October of 2007, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency announced the detection of the Golden Nematode in two potato seed production fields in Alberta, Canada. On May 5, 2008 the U.S. and Canada signed an agreement for dealing with detection of Golden Nematode and Pale Cyst Nematode in our respective countries. It also establishes a sampling protocol for fields from which seed is to be exported. The sampling protocol (one pound of soil per acre over the entire field) has a detection sensitivity of 4,000,000 cysts per acre.

Grasshopper and Mormon cricket population levels were not as widespread and damaging in 2007, although high densities were observed at several isolated locations. Valley, Adams and Washington Counties had serious outbreak of migratory and clearwinged grasshoppers. U of I Extension and private businesses cooperated with ISDA to distribute bait to farmers



ISDA – Pounds of Carbyaryl Bait  
Distributed to Private Landowners

and ranchers in areas with heavy grasshopper infestations. Approximately 188,958 pounds of bait was distributed to land owners in 17 counties in 2007, a small increase from 2006 levels. ISDA participated with private land owners in cooperative area-wide spray projects protecting 23,281 acres of cricket and grasshopper infested private and state-owned lands. In 2007, Mormon cricket infestations were less severe in Ada, Boise, Elmore and Owyhee counties but populations continued to build in Bannock, Cassia, Oneida and Power counties.

## Export Certification

Idaho is a major producer of agricultural seeds. In 2007, Idaho exported over 260 million pounds of alfalfa, field and garden beans, sweet corn, Kentucky bluegrass, peas, onion seeds, and miscellaneous agricultural products to 97 countries. The division's staff inspected 58,218 acres of crops; the plant pathology laboratory conducted 3,575 tests on 746 plant samples for diseases; and the division issued 747 state and 4,202 federal phytosanitary certificates. The division continues to work to overcome phytosanitary trade barriers, which restrict the export of Idaho agricultural products.

## Noxious Weeds Program

The Noxious Weeds Program has the primary responsibility for implementing the Idaho Noxious Weed Law and Idaho's Strategic Plan for Managing Noxious Weeds. Staff provides leadership, training and support to local Cooperative Weed



*Eurasian Watermilfoil*

Management Areas (CWMAs) around the state. The 2007 Cost Share Program provided over \$2.2 million in grants to CWMAs and statewide groups to implement on-the-ground integrated weed management. The program applicants matched the cost share dollars with over \$7.7 million, treating over 180,000 acres and mapping over 1 million acres. Over 4 million public contacts were made. Other programs administered by the staff include the Noxious Weed-Free Forage and Straw Program and the Noxious Weeds Mapping and Inventory Program. The Idaho Legislature provided another \$4 million for the Eurasian Watermilfoil Control Program. This program funded 19 projects and completed control of more than 4,200 surface acres of milfoil in Idaho lakes last year. Focus of the projects was eradication. Control methods used were aquatic herbicide applications, bottom barriers, diver assisted vacuum-hand removal, boat wash stations as well as education and prevention programs for the public.

### Recent Achievements

- Division staff presented information about the exotic pest detection programs at several winter professional meetings and conferences.
- Conducted an industry audit of the feed tonnage reporting system.
- Optimized and initiated potato cyst nematode viability testing.
- Drafted an Invasive Species Act that was passed by the Legislature.
- Developed and initiated an eradication program for Hydrilla in Owyhee County.
- Initiated a statewide Early Detection Rapid Response network with IDFG and Idaho Power.
- Conducted boater decontamination trainings for aquatic nuisance species to state, federal and local agency personnel.
- Cooperated with USDA trace forward inspections on Idaho potato growers who may have received nematode infested seed potatoes from infested farms in Alberta, Canada
- Cooperated with USDA trace forward inspections of nurseries who received nursery stock from nurseries found infested with Sudden Oak Death.
- The Fertilizer lab increased their ability to process samples for heavy metal contamination.

### Future Goals

- Monitor the survival and establishment of bio-control agents for cereal leaf beetle.
- Expand exotic pest surveys to Silver Y moth and Light Brown Apple moth.
- Cooperate with USDA to eradicate the potato cyst nematode from the state.
- Develop a paperless inspection, sampling and registration system for the pest detection, nursery, florist licenses, as well as the feed, fertilizer, and soil and plant amendment programs.
- Continue to provide education and support to fight noxious weeds in Idaho. Cooperate with the 100<sup>th</sup> Meridian Initiative and participate in Quagga Mussel Rapid Response exercise for the Columbia River Basin.
- Expand surveys for aquatic nuisance species in geothermal areas of the state.
- Promulgate rules to implement the Idaho Invasive Species Act of 2008

## Division of Agricultural Resources

The Division of Agricultural Resources works to promote, direct and ensure safe agricultural and environmental practices. The division registers pesticides, and trains and licenses pesticide applicators and chemigators. Coordination with agriculture professionals, agencies and the public has improved the processes in protecting human health, the environment and fish and wildlife species of the state from potential adverse effects of pesticides. Major functions are described below.

The **Enforcement Program** investigates complaints of pesticide misuse, and monitors pesticide use throughout Idaho. ISDA works through a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to ensure compliance with federal and state pesticide laws and rules. Compliance is achieved through educational seminars and audits, compliance assistance and regulatory activities. In FY2008 the division conducted 183 investigations, inspections and compliance audits. Thirty-five allegations of pesticide misuse were filed with ISDA, which is the lowest number of complaints received for a fiscal year. One hundred seventy-three enforcement actions were taken consisting of 32 hearings and 49 civil complaints against applicators and/or dealers resulting in 24 civil penalties, one license revocation and 14 license suspensions. Other enforcement actions consisted of eight warning letters, 30 regulatory letters, and seven stop sale, use, or removal orders. Eight cases were forwarded to EPA for review and potential enforcement action.

The **Pesticide Licensing and Certification/Pesticide Applicator Training Program** verified recertification credits for over 900 seminars throughout Idaho in FY2008, with ISDA actively conducting training in more than 150 of them. Four major applicator training events occurred during FY2008: Environmental Care Association Conference, Idaho Potato School, Southwest Idaho Farm Show and the North Idaho Pesticide Applicator Certification Training. Future cooperation with University of Idaho Extension will provide applicators with more educational opportunities. ISDA provided for over 150 applicator testing sessions throughout Idaho during FY2008 to certify pesticide applicators. Over 8,000 pesticide applicators and dealers are licensed and supported.



*Loading chemical for an aerial field application*

Over 9,800 pesticide products were registered for sale and distribution in Idaho for calendar year 2007 by the Pesticide Registration Program. Pesticide labels are reviewed to ensure compliance with state and federal laws and rules, and assists growers and industry through the registration of emergency and special local need pesticides for agricultural pests.

The **Idaho WPS/Farm Worker Safety Program** has been recognized as a national leader for its accomplishments. Since implementation of the program, WPS staff has logged over 65,000 contacts with the agriculture community including training 709 certified trainers, 10,013 handlers and 16,415 workers in safe pesticide use. The Worker Protection Program has increased pesticide awareness, promoted proper pesticide use, and encouraged the proper use of personal protective equipment. In FY2008, the field operations staff conducted 57 Tier I inspections, 13 Tier II inspections, and 48 WPS pesticide label inspections.

The **Private Applicator Recordkeeping Program** continues to work with the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Agricultural Marketing Service that requires certified private applicators to maintain Restricted Use Pesticide application records for two years. These records are inspected by ISDA personnel and can be made available to emergency medical personnel in cases of suspected human exposure to pesticides. In FY2008, ISDA conducted 150 initial recordkeeping inspections, issued one warning letter for record violations and conducted ten follow-up inspections from a warning letter issued in FY2007. Since entering into the cooperative agreement with USDA, ISDA has published a recordkeeping handbook in English and Spanish for private applicators in Idaho; worked with the Idaho Food Producers to incorporate a recordkeeping booth in the Agricultural Pavilion at the Western Idaho State Fair, Eastern Idaho State Fair, and the Twin Falls County Fair; published a brochure that outlines recordkeeping requirements for private applicators, professional applicators and dealers; made over 6,000 personal contacts concerning the program; and conducted over 1,600 inspections in Idaho. In addition, ISDA is developing a downloadable private applicator recordkeeping program through the Idaho OnePlan.



The **Container Recycling Project (CROP)** is a free service to users of pesticides to recycle empty pesticide containers that have been properly rinsed. In 2007, CROP became a full-time program and a second truck was added to improve service in Eastern Idaho and the Magic Valley. Over 111,000 pounds of plastic were processed in calendar year 2007. Over 900,000 containers have been recycled since the program started in 1994. The chipped plastic may be recycled into drain field pipe, truck beds, pallets, fence posts, speed bumps, and parking lot stops.

The **Pesticide Disposal Program (PDP)** is another free service for pesticide users to dispose of unusable pesticides in an environmentally conscientious manner. The program conducts two major collections each year - one in the spring, which serves southwest and northern Idaho, and one in the fall that serves eastern and central Idaho. Since the start of the program in 1993, over 871,000 pounds of unusable pesticides have been safely and properly disposed of.

The **Water Quality Program** implements agricultural monitoring and protection programs with public and private partners to protect ground and surface water quality. ISDA leads the implementation of the Agricultural Ground Water Quality Protection Program for Idaho (1996) through the Agricultural Ground Water Coordination Committee. ISDA implements ground water monitoring and protection projects related to pesticides, nutrients, and animal waste impacts. ISDA also works with the Idaho Soil Conservation Commission (ISCC) to implement an Agricultural Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Implementation Monitoring Program related to the Clean Water Act.

The **Idaho Pesticide and Chemigation** law requires that a minimum of 250 chemigation inspections be conducted each year—257 were conducted in FY2008. Also, as part of the EPA Cooperative Agreement, ISDA conducts a minimum of three chemigation use inspections each year. ISDA continues to add chemigation equipment to its list of approved equipment for chemigation and has developed application forms for equipment approval and independent laboratory testing. Updated lists of approved chemigation equipment and the equipment approval application and independent laboratory testing forms can be found on ISDA's chemigation web page. ISDA has added three lawn and landscape chemical injectors to the list of approved chemigation equipment. There are currently 731 licensed chemigators in Idaho.

The **Urban Pesticide Program** works with non-agriculture pesticide users to promote the use of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) to control pests in urban situations. During FY2008, the IPM-specific training was largely dedicated to mosquito control techniques with approximately 650 individuals attending mosquito control training presentations and participating in pesticide use regulatory activities dedicated to intervening in the outbreak of West Nile Virus (WNV) infections in Idaho (during 2007 there were 123 confirmed human cases with one fatality). The legislation passed in 2007 allowed for the formation of eleven new interim or permanent abatement districts. ISDA staff provided assistance to local governments as they worked through the process to establish the new districts. With the formation of the new abatement districts, additional manpower and contracted services combined with a decline in WNV cases it is anticipated that ISDA activity in mosquito control issues will also decline. It is anticipated that within the year ISDA Urban Pesticide/IPM Program staff will refocus training, outreach and regulatory activities to emphasize the promotion of safe pest management practices.

The **Engineering Section** provides professional engineering services and consultation to the agricultural communities of Idaho. These services include planning, design, construction inspection, and approval of livestock waste facilities and land treatment systems; providing technical information regarding environmental issues; chemigation training and inspections; on-farm implementation of Best Management Practices (BMPs); and engineering support on conservation projects administered by the Idaho Soil Conservation Commission.

#### **Recent Achievements**

- Conducted water quality monitoring, and coordinated with statewide and local water quality improvement plans/projects.
- Processed over 111,000 pounds of plastic in 2007.
- Since 1993, safely and properly disposed of over 871, 000 pounds of unusable pesticides.
- CROP became a full time permanent program and new equipment was purchased to better serve our customers.
- WPS staff has made over 65,000 contacts with the agriculture community since implementation of the worker protection standard program.

#### **Future Goals**

- Complete and implement Pesticide Management rules.
- Develop BMP effectiveness protocols for agricultural TMDL program.
- Provide IPM training and outreach to retailers of general use pesticides.
- Implement a comprehensive statewide nitrate and ground water protection process.
- Publish separate exams and study guides for greenhouse chemigation and farm chemigation operations.





## Division of Agricultural Inspections

### Bureau of Shipping Point Inspections

The Federal Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Inspection Service originated in 1917, but its authority was restricted to work in destination markets where the inspections were only made by Federal Market Inspectors. In 1922, Congress extended the service to shipping points by adding to the authority the words, “when offered for interstate shipment,” and so began Idaho’s Bureau of Shipping Point Inspection. This service is a joint federal-state program entirely supported by fees collected from users of the service.



*A potato field observed during a recent food safety ranch (field) audit.*

This bureau maintains a Boise headquarters staff along with four district offices strategically located in Idaho’s production areas. Present locations are: Parma, Burley, Blackfoot, and Idaho Falls. The bureau is the largest within the Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA), serving producers, shippers and processors in 36 of the state’s 44 counties. Annually, the bureau performs inspections on 10 different commodities and certifies over 13 billion pounds of produce. To provide this service, the bureau supports a staff of 475 employees in 17 different job classifications. Although some positions are staffed year-round, 75 percent of the workforce is employed in seasonal, part-time positions.

Employees of the Shipping Point Inspection program inspect commodities for quality and condition at the shipping point, using official grade standards developed by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and ISDA for fresh fruits and vegetables. The Bureau of Shipping Point Inspection established a third party auditing program that helps Idaho producers and

shippers meet the increasing demand for Good Management Practices (GMPs), Good Handling Practices (GHPs), and Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs).

On March 6, 2008, the ISDA signed a cooperative agreement with USDA to conduct surveillance reviews on Country of Origin Labeling (COOL) requirements as mandated by the 2002 farm bill. These reviews will be conducted by the Bureau of Shipping Point Inspection Program. The effective date for all covered commodities was subsequently postponed until September 30, 2006, and later delayed until September 30, 2008. Covered commodities include muscle cuts of beef (including veal), lamb and pork; ground beef, ground lamb and ground pork; farm raised fish and shellfish; wild fish and shellfish; perishable agricultural commodities fresh and frozen (fruits and vegetables); and peanuts.

#### Recent Achievements

- In cooperation with USDA-Agricultural Marketing Service, developed a customer driven Federal-State Audit Verification and Training program for good agricultural and handling practices resulting in increased marketing opportunities for Idaho’s fresh fruit and vegetable industry.
- Issued phytosanitary inspection certificates on loads of fruit and vegetables certified and shipped to 18 different countries.
- Established a chemical maturity monitoring testing station to control sucrose and glucose content levels in potato tubers during the growing and development stages and during storage life.
- Annually conduct over 350 third-party food safety audits for producers and packers.
- Under cooperative agreements with USDA, conducts COOL retail surveillance activities.

#### Future Goals

- Continue to improve communication between office, field staff, and industry through computer technology.
- Provide industry with services requested in a timely manner and at a cost-effective rate.
- Maintain up-to-date information on all aspects of food safety and food security.
- Develop more precise information gathering and tracking practices through the timesheet entry program.
- Rewrite the Shipping Point Inspection computer program to keep up with technology, requests for electronic communication, and timely results.
- Work with USDA and the Idaho agriculture industry to maintain up-to-date information on all aspects of COOL requirements and to assist Idaho’s agriculture industry in meeting those requirements.
- Work with USDA to secure auditor licenses allowing our USDA GAP/GHP audit trained staff to conduct USDA audits.

## Organic and Hop Programs

The Idaho State Department of Agriculture is an accredited organic certifying agency with the United States Department of Agriculture National Organic Program (NOP). Currently the Idaho Organic Program provides certification to 230 producers and handlers on 38 different commodities in 36 of Idaho's 44 counties.

### Recent Achievements

- Instituted a new electronic tracking procedure to ensure timely inspection and certification to customers.
- Trained all dairy inspectors within the Department Dairy Bureau to conduct organic dairy inspections.
- Trained 14 additional inspectors in 23 counties to perform crop and handler inspections.

### Future Goals

- Improve communication between headquarters office, field staff and industry through computer technology.
- Provide customers with timely service at a cost effective rate.

## Warehouse Control Program



ISDA's Warehouse Control Program is responsible for regulating public warehouses, commodity dealers and seed buyer facilities. Idaho's agricultural warehouse and seed industries store and market a wide variety of commodities such as wheat, barley, oats, dry edible beans, peas, lentils, and a number of other diverse seed crops grown in Idaho.

Warehouse examiners conduct reviews, which help to ensure that a warehouse operator continues to maintain a stock of commodities reflective of what has been deposited by producers. Commodity dealers are also examined to ensure that producers are being paid for their agricultural commodities.

The Commodity Indemnity Fund (CIF) and the Seed Indemnity Fund (SIF) offer additional protection for producers should a warehouse, commodity dealer, or seed buyer failure occur. These two \$12 million funds are supported by producers' assessments and allow producers to recoup losses due to such a failure.

### Recent Achievements

- Developed and implemented a risk-based warehouse examination program.
- Updated warehouse charts and diagrams in an electronic format.

### Future Goals

- Develop the ability to perform a more in-depth examination based on risk analysis.
- Continued training of examiners to better serve licensed warehouses, commodity dealers and seed buyer facilities and producers.

## Bureau of Weights and Measures

The Bureau of Weights and Measures' responsibilities include statewide inspection of accuracy and suitability of commercial devices such as vehicle and livestock scales, gasoline and fuel meters and propane meters. Packaged products are inspected to ensure net contents meet labeled weight, volume or count. Short delivery and misleading advertising are investigated and gasoline octane is monitored. The bureau also tests to assure accurate weighing of products and commodities bought and sold. The metrology laboratory provides traceable calibration of mass, length and volume.

### Recent Achievements

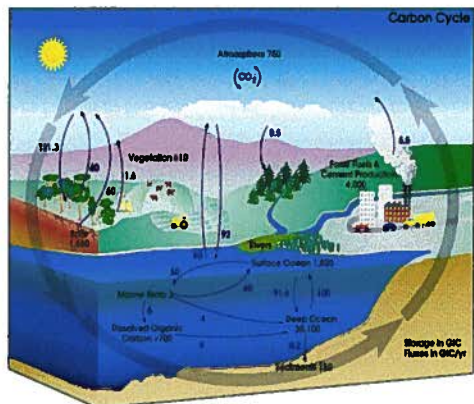
- Instituted decontamination procedures for testing livestock scales to proactively prevent spreading livestock diseases.
- Modified existing field weight lifting system and installed wireless video equipment to improve efficiency in testing large capacity scales.
- Instituted a new tracking procedure to ensure timely investigation and resolution on complaints.

### Future Goals

- Continue to work toward accreditation for the Metrology Laboratory by the National Voluntary Laboratory Accreditation Program (NVLAP).
- Continue to develop relationships with regulated industries and service personnel for better compliance with Weights and Measures laws.
- Accomplish 100% annual device inspection.
- Continue training for W&M personnel for safety and professionalism.

## Idaho Soil Conservation Commission

Created in 1939, the Idaho Soil Conservation Commission (ISCC) provides support and service to Idaho's Conservation Districts in the wise use and enhancement of soil, water, and related resources. The ISCC consists of five members appointed by Idaho's governor to staggered five-year terms. Three non-voting advisors have authorization to serve at the invitation of the ISCC: the state conservationist with the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service, the president of the Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts, and the dean of the College of Agriculture, University of Idaho. The Commission's 24-member staff is responsible for programs and water quality efforts in agriculture and grazing conservation program delivery and conservation district needs. Over 20,000 farmers, ranchers and landowners receive assistance through districts. Most staff work through a Conservation District in the field providing technical assistance directly to Idaho landowners and assisting with projects within public/private, local, state, and federal entities.



### Major Programs - Water Quality Program for Agriculture (WQPA)

The WQPA was created to protect and enhance the quality and value of Idaho's waters by controlling and abating water pollution from agricultural nonpoint sources. This program provides cost-share assistance to entities implementing water quality projects. The Commission selects projects for funding, evaluates program effectiveness in reducing agricultural nonpoint source pollution, provides technical assistance, and supports conservation districts in further planning and implementation.

**Carbon Sequestration** The Commission's directive is to provide leadership in facilitating the State's *Idaho Carbon Sequestration Advisory Committee (ICSAC)* as described in Idaho Code §22-5201 et. al. by

providing support and guidance for implementation of carbon sequestration trading Pilot Projects for agriculture and forestry, and assisting ICSAC with meeting their goals related to major areas of focus which include carbon trading pilot projects, research, a carbon sequestration registry; geologic carbon sequestration; and chairing the *Carbon Issues Task Force* for the Idaho Strategic Energy Alliance, and finally, coordinating with the Office of Energy Resources.

### Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)

Beginning July 1, 2005, the ISCC was required to implement the state's responsibilities in this USDA program. The primary goal of CREP is to develop and implement Idaho's CREP land use and conservation component to conserve water in the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer (ESPA) by providing technical support in determining eligibility and enrollment; assisting landowners/users in implementing Best Management Practices (BMPs); and developing local groundwater management plans. The goal is to reduce water demand by 200,000 acre feet annually.

**The Resource Conservation and Rangeland Development Program (RCRDP)** provides long-term, low-interest loans to farmers and ranchers for conservation improvements. Loans are available up to \$125,000 for terms of up to 15 years. Projects should address environmental issues, including (but not limited to) the following items: soil and water resource conservation; efficient and beneficial use of water resources; riparian area improvement; fish and wildlife habitat restoration and preservation; and the increased agricultural productivity of croplands, pasture and hayland, rangeland, and woodland.



*Wheel lines for erosion reduction and water quality/quantity improvement*

**The State Revolving Fund (SRF)** like RCRDP, provides long-term, low-interest loans for conservation improvements on private and public lands at the rural-urban interface. What makes SRF different is that no pre-set limit has been placed on amounts borrowed. Another important difference is the ranking system employed by the Department of Environmental Quality Board to determine project priority. The following list (in order of importance) is used when prioritizing potential projects: public health emergency or public health hazard; watershed restoration; and watershed protection.





*Sediment basin to control run-off*

**Conservation Improvement Grants (CIG)** Monetary grants may be awarded for improvements to water quality and soil conservation, and to demonstrate new or innovative conservation improvement practices/systems for rangeland and riparian areas. This program provides grants up to \$10,000 to individuals, partnerships, trusts, estates, private corporations or other legal entities. Qualifying practices must be implemented on public or private land identified as part of a project plan in Idaho. Grant monies must be matched by the recipient in cash, materials, labor, or use of equipment for the installation of practices. Grants are awarded based on rank according to set priorities. For more information about availability of grant monies or eligibility, visit your local Conservation District, or find us on the web at [www.scc.idaho.gov](http://www.scc.idaho.gov).

#### **Recent Achievements:**

- WQPA projects resulted in treatment to 19,052 critical acres of agricultural land, 92,736 feet, or greater than 17 miles of riparian area, and animal feeding areas containing 2,315 head of livestock.
- WQPA projects addressed the agricultural components of approximately 30 TMDL implementation plans and six ground water quality priority areas.
- WQPA funds expended in this effort totaled \$939,900. These state funds were matched by \$1,312,000 from participating landowners and \$1,352,000 from federal sources, largely EQIP and the 319 program.
- The Conservation Improvement Grant program facilitated treatment to 4,221 critical acres of mainly agricultural land, and animal feeding areas containing 1,034 head of livestock. Grant funds expended were \$248,906, matched with \$498,394 from the grantees and \$406,041 from federal sources.
- Approved 44 new RCRDP loans and disbursed \$2,994,497.00 in low-interest loan funds.
- Provided training and support to district supervisors and employees on using QuickBooks, Excel, records retention and file management, zero-based budgeting, new employee training, personnel issues, and accountability.
- Pend Oreille Lake\*A\*Syst Project has installed two phases of a BMP demo site, with educational signage, that includes an acre of stormwater area treatment with mycofiltration swales and 600 linear feet of riparian plantings.

#### **Future Goals:**

- Continue statewide leadership for the development and implementation of TMDL watersheds.
- Complete three TMDL watershed implementation plans and initiate five new TMDL watershed-planning starts.
- Provide maintenance and support to 48 WQPA projects and ensure effectiveness and applicability in meeting TMDL objectives.
- Develop Integrated Pest Management and Range Management components of the Idaho OnePlan.
- Provide local and statewide leadership for the integration of state and federal funding programs for implementation of BMPs within high priority TMDL watersheds.
- Provide landowner Conservation Plans to utilize the CREP program to focus on water quality and quantity issues in the ESPA.
- Continue to work with the Big Sky Regional Carbon Sequestration Partnership to explore state options.
- Complete statewide workload analysis for groundwater planning and implementation needs.
- Secure additional funding and technical assistance for conservation districts.
- Increase training and support to district supervisors, district employees, and conservation partners. Provide guidance for Districts in conducting supervisor elections and new auditing guidelines.
- Begin Lake\*A\*Syst efforts for Hauser, Cocolalla, Hayden, Twin Lakes, and Spirit Lake.

## Idaho Rural Partnership



The mission of the Idaho Rural Partnership (IRP) is to join diverse public and private resources in innovative collaborations to strengthen communities and improve life in rural Idaho. The Partnership facilitates collaboration; monitors, reports and comments on policies and programs; and reduces or eliminates conflicting or duplicative administrative or regulatory requirements.

IRP is governed by a board of directors consisting of the Governor's Office, legislators, federal and state agency directors, tribes, local government, the Idaho National Laboratory, University of Idaho Extension, and the private sector. ISDA Director Celia Gould and Nancy Bergmann of the Idaho National Laboratory serve as board co-chairs.

The Partnership is Idaho's State Rural Development Council (SRDC). The SRDC's were created in the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to improve the coordination of rural policy and programs.

### Recent Achievements

- Facilitated a diverse partnership of federal & state agencies and the private sector to provide community reviews for Payette, Soda Springs, and Kamiah.
- Promoted entrepreneurship as an economic development tool for rural Idaho
- Developed an online entrepreneurship course for high school students that has received national and international attention for its innovation
- Held a capacity-building summit to educate rural leaders on available resources
- Hosted the annual Partners for Rural America conference
- Developed a program for the Association of Idaho Cities convention to help rural communities better prepare to address needed infrastructure upgrades
- Provided leadership training to more than 400 business and community leaders throughout rural Idaho
- Served as a clearinghouse of information and resources important to citizens and leadership in rural Idaho
- Partnered with businesses and organizations to hold Farm-City Day for Idaho legislators to celebrate the diversity of Idaho's economy and highlight the interconnectedness of the agriculture and technology sectors
- Developed the Rural Idaho at a Glance 2008 publication to educate legislators on Idaho's rural population
- Provided a forum to streamline a variety of governmental regulatory and grant-making activities

### Future Goals

- Streamline the Idaho Community Review process in order to provide greater assistance to additional communities each year
- Facilitate community reviews for American Falls, Mackey and Gooding
- Offer leadership training in conflict resolution, team building and customer service
- Develop and offer educational opportunities for entrepreneurs in rural Idaho
- Continue case specific collaboration to assist rural Idaho communities
- Educate and inform policymakers on conditions in rural Idaho
- Increase access to educational and workforce development opportunities for rural Idahoans
- Collaborate with economic development groups to eliminate duplication and better serve Idaho communities
- Utilize Idaho Rural Partnership policy, economic development, environment and education committees to identify areas for partnership and streamlining opportunities for federal and state agencies
- Promote the healthy diversity of the state's economy with a focus on the need for both agriculture/natural resource-based industries and high technology
- Improve and promote comprehensive online database of resources available to rural Idaho.